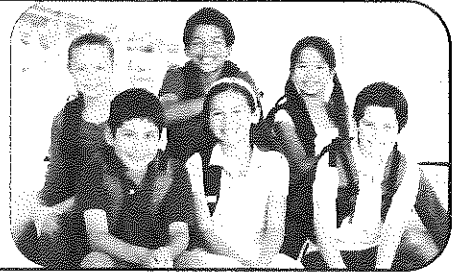


Saint Croix Valley Friends of Public Education



Advocating for Public Schools in Western Wisconsin and Beyond

Public schools are the bedrock of the community and the foundation of our democracy.

Our Mission: We are a non-partisan citizen's group that promotes the positive aspects of public education. Our mission is to advocate for the policies and resources necessary to prepare our students to succeed in the 21st century.

Our Purpose: To inform Saint Croix Valley residents of proposed state & national legislation affecting public education and to provide feedback to our elected officials.

Our Rationale:



Quality public schools support healthy communities and create a foundation for vigorous entrepreneurial and business enterprise.



Diminishing state support for public schools in Wisconsin is making it harder for our students to compete in a global marketplace. This is not fair to the next generation.



Quality public schools and educators have a positive impact on children, families and communities.



Diminishing respect for educators is eroding the foundation of trust vital to a quality education and exacerbating the looming trend of teacher shortages.



Public education addresses the disturbing trends of increasing poverty, a shrinking middle class, unequal access to technology and increasing economic inequality.



The voucher program funnels scarce public dollars to private schools that are not held to the same standards as public schools and are not required to educate all students.

Learn More! Facebook: www.facebook.com/SCVFPE

E-mail: SCVFPE@gmail.com

April 4th is an Important Day for your Household

Vote No!!! – Osceola School Referendum

Here are the facts:

- The 1% tax increase is projected to be a 1% increase of the School Board's budget. This comes after last year's 1% tax increase. We all have to live within our means!!!!
- The increase is **permanent, FOREVER**. Most reasonable and strong business guidance is not something the School Board has practiced. Why should we believe our vote at the end will not be added to in the future?

Here is the tax bill you will see. It's real. It's real. Will you make an extra \$3,000 per year to pay just your NEW School Board imposed taxes?

Representation of your tax bill @ \$200k

BASED ON A REAL TAX STATEMENT - LOOK AT YOURS

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
State	\$ 16.92	\$ 16.92	\$ 16.92	\$ 16.92	\$ 16.92	\$ 16.92	\$ 16.92
County	\$ 85.10	\$ 85.10	\$ 85.10	\$ 85.10	\$ 85.10	\$ 85.10	\$ 85.10
Township	\$ 443.00	\$ 443.00	\$ 443.00	\$ 443.00	\$ 443.00	\$ 443.00	\$ 443.00
School District	\$1,772.00	\$1,810.00	\$1,848.00	\$1,886.00	\$1,924.00	\$1,962.00	\$2,000.00
WWTC	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00
Total	\$2,402.02	\$2,434.10	\$2,472.10	\$2,510.10	\$2,548.10	\$2,586.10	\$2,624.10

- Renters will be impacted. It will be passed on in your new rental agreement. We will all pay. Can you afford this and your family medical insurance increases? There are choices. You lose control of your finances if you do not vote!
- At the recent information meeting the School Board stated, "there will still be cuts to programs and staff even if the referendum passes." So, is more money the fix?
- Let the Osceola School Board and the Wisconsin Teachers Union know that "Our Community" will continue to be vigilant on "Out of Control Spending." **WE ALL MUST LIVE WITHIN OUR MEANS.**

As the Rolling Stones song goes: "You don't always get what you want!!!!!!"

To defeat this referendum, it will take 400+ voters saying NO. Do not let the OSI staff outnumber those who pay. **VOTE!!!! VOTE!!!! VOTE!!!! VOTE!!!! VOTE!!!! VOTE!!!!**

Election Day Information for Polk and St. Croix Counties

- Polls open at 7 am and close at 8 pm. Every person in line at 8 pm gets to vote. This is statewide for ALL elections.
- Your PHOTO ID is required for voting. Bring your photo ID with you to the polls.
- A voter can register to vote at your polling place on Election Day, with your proof of residence. When registering, you need to present documentation - either in paper or electronic format - showing your current name at your address.

VOTE!!!! VOTE!!!! VOTE!!!! VOTE!!!! VOTE!!!! VOTE!!!! VOTE NO!!!!

A Response to the Vote No! Flyer

April 4th is indeed an important day for your household. Invest in the future of Osceola and

Vote Yes! For the Osceola School District Referendum!

The Vote No! flyer you may have received in your mailbox is divisive, full of misinformation and was placed there in violation of federal law (only postal workers can place items in your mailbox)¹.

The claim that the Osceola school board has been fiscally irresponsible is just plain wrong!

- **The need for additional funding is NOT a self-inflicted wound.** Osceola spends below the state average and has the second-lowest mil rate in the area.
- **The problem is not enough state funding.** All public schools have suffered major cuts and are not even getting inflation increases any more. Anyone who says otherwise is uninformed or being untruthful.
- **Inflation has risen 13.5%, but Osceola school district spending has increased only 0.2%.**
- **The district has cut staff and reduced benefits.** Five full-time positions have been eliminated. Teachers' aids have been reduced to part-time with no benefits. The district is paying LESS for benefits and employees are paying MORE.
- **\$5 million dollars' worth of building maintenance and repairs have been put off.** (But for how long?)
- **The district has invested wisely.** Debt refinancing has saved taxpayers \$1.5 million; building retrofitting is providing long-term energy savings; a 30-year-old phone system has been updated for a more rapid response to bomb threats and other emergencies.

The Claims About Property Taxes Are Misleading or Outright False!

- **You will NOT be paying \$3000 more per year in school property taxes, not even close!** Not next year, not in any year going forward.
- **You will be paying far less than they are claiming.** Even if you do own \$200,000 worth of property, which most people don't, the MOST you would be paying for this referendum is \$534/per year, and that is not until year 4.
- **They do not tell you that you will be paying the full amount for this referendum for only 2 years.** Over \$1.5 million in other debt will be paid off in 2023, which will reduce your property taxes.
- **They do not tell you that the district will be debt free in 6 years, further reducing your property taxes.**

The Vote No! Flyer Is Divisive

- There is no acknowledgement that our kids and grandkids need a good education to be successful.
- This is a community discussion. The "Wisconsin Teachers Union" has nothing to do with it.
- The school board members serve because they believe in the future of our kids and our community. (Thank you!) They understand and don't take lightly what they are asking of taxpayers.
- School district staff are dedicated to what they do (Thank you!), they are valued members of our community and they pay taxes too.

And as the Rolling Stones song continues: "But if you try sometimes, you get what you need." That's all the district is asking for.

¹ "The U.S. Postal Service would like to warn people that only authorized U.S. Postal Service delivery personnel are allowed to place items in a mailbox. By law, a mailbox is intended only for receipt of postage-paid U.S. Mail." https://about.usps.com/news/state-releases/tx/2010/tx_2010_0909.htm